

**USAID/FFP Cash Assistance
Endline Report
Yobe State, Nigeria
January 2016**



USAID/FFP Cash Assistance Project

Endline Survey Report

Yobe State, Nigeria

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By AAH Cash Team Yobe State.

Funded by:



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1. INTRODUCTION

Action Against Hunger Nigeria implemented a cash assistance program in Yobe State funded by USAID/Food For Peace. Targeting beneficiary households, baseline data was collected in January 2015, cash transfers were conducted for 9 months (April – December) followed by regular post distribution monitoring (PDMs) and then the endline survey was performed in January 2016.

This endline survey assesses household food security status in comparison to information collected during the baseline to understand changes in beneficiary diets and nutrition education in the project implementation areas, Damaturu, Potiskum and Fune Local Government Areas (LGAs).

1. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the endline survey were:

- To establish the current household dietary diversity score of the households as against the baseline results in the three LGAs.
- To establish the current coping mechanisms at the disposal of the targeted households as against the baseline results.
- To establish the current food consumption score of the households as against the baseline results in the three LGAs.

2. SAMPLING & METHODOLOGY

A total of 3000 Households benefited from the USAID/FFP cash transfer project. 600 households (20 %) were selected using the Stratified Random Sampling procedure to achieve 95% confidence level & +/-5% margin of error with a final data collection of 634 households. A total of 12 enumerators were engaged for data collection training on the various indicators using ODK. The team was deployed for five days to complete the data collection of the selected households.

A total of 302 households were selected in Damaturu LGA, 201 households in Potiskum LGA and 130 households in Fune LGA. For each selected household, a structured and coded household questionnaire was administered to the head of household through ODK.

3. RESULTS

a. Household Demography

Figure 1: Household Member Profile by LGA and in total

On average 66% of households were found to be male headed during the baseline, 34% female headed. Whereas during the endline survey 83% of households were male headed while 17% were female headed. Fune LGA had the highest proportion of female headed households with 46% and 79% during baseline and endline surveys respectively. Details per LGA can be observed in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 - Gender of Household Heads

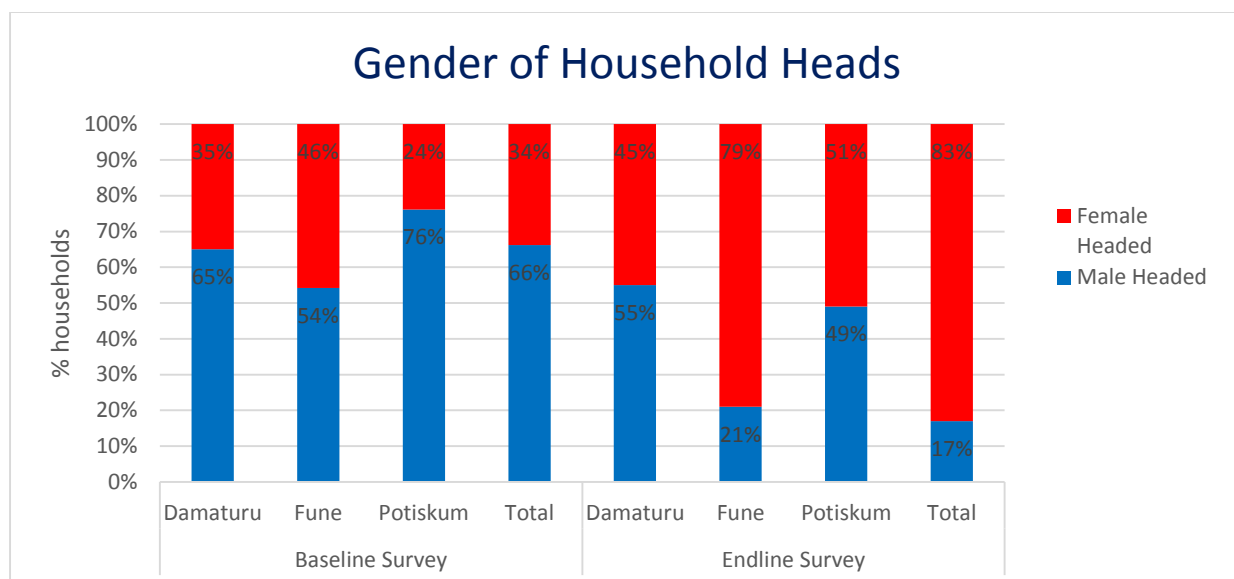
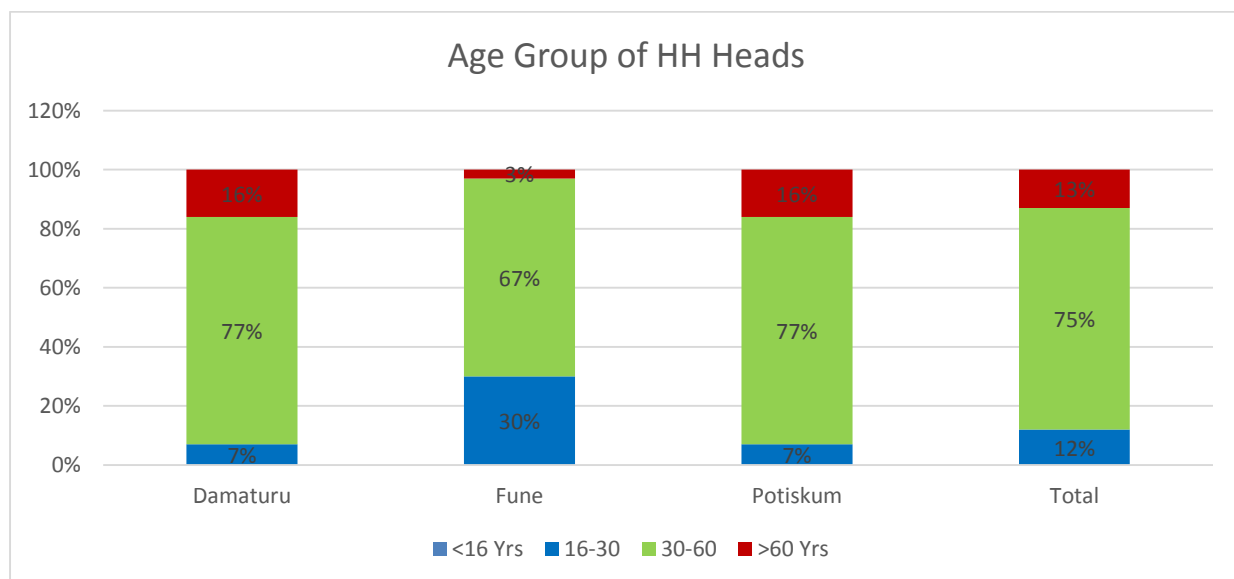


Figure 2: Gender of Household Head per LGA and in Total

The vast majority of household heads ranged in the age group of 30-60years olds, with an average proportion of 74% (67% at baseline) for all LGAs. No household heads under age of 16 years were recorded. Details can be seen in Figure 2 below.

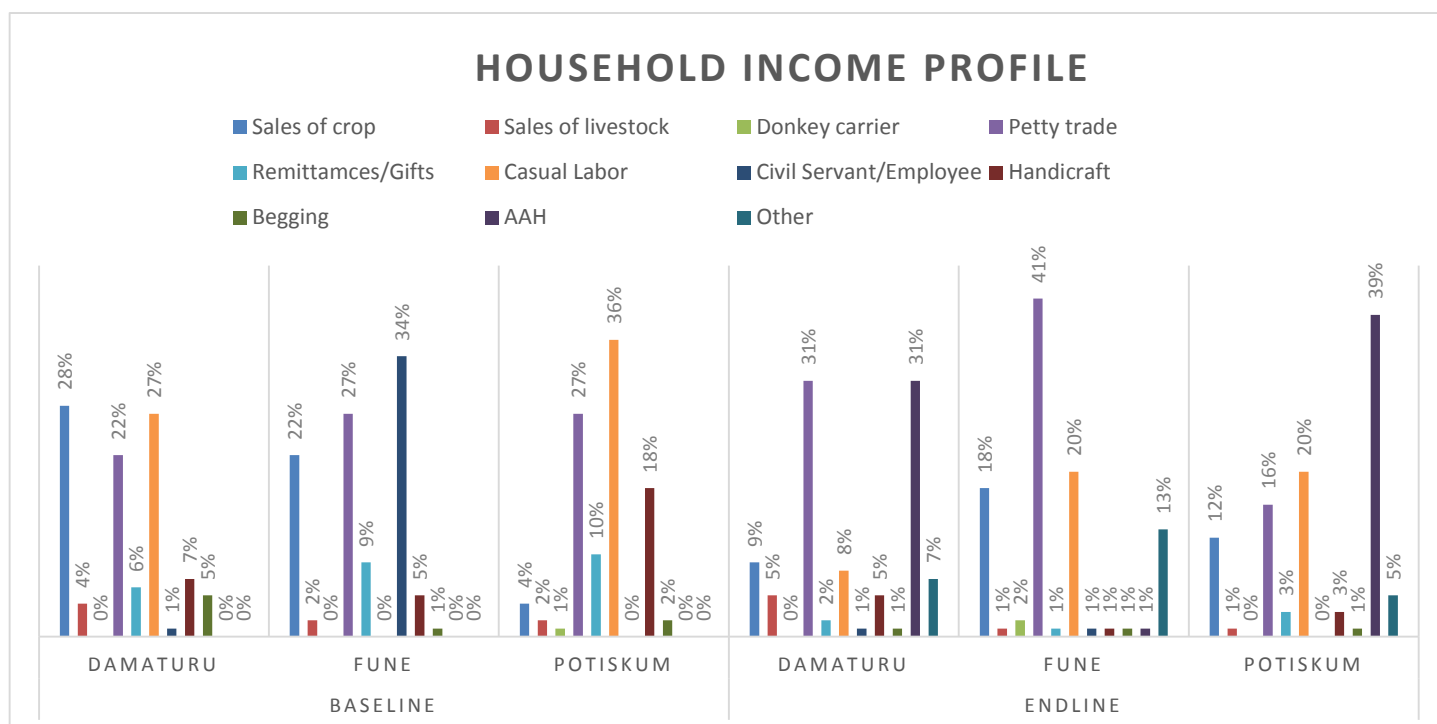
Figure 2 - Age of Household Heads



b. Household Income Profile

Asked for their main income sources, households reported casual labour and petty trade as the top two income sources during the baseline. Sale of crops was also high especially in Damaturu, a major income source. Petty trade was still the major source of income for households during the endline. However, the cash assistance from AAH has replaced casual labour as the second major source of household income. Details can be seen in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3 - Household Income Profile



c. Household Reduced Coping Strategy

The households coping strategy index was calculated using a severity score (1-3) for more and less severe strategies being employed, based on the Standard Coping Strategy Index tool (Care/WFP, 2008). The maximum score feasible is 56, indicating all 5 coping strategies are used over the past seven days. The average score across the surveyed LGAs was 22.8 during the baseline and 7.6 during the endline indicating some coping, but referring back to less severe coping strategies at this point of time. Potiskum showed the highest score mainly due to the indication of *reducing adults' food intake for children*, as this strategy is scored with the highest severity during both baseline and endline surveys. It should be noted that some of the data for household coping strategy was not captured resulting in a reduced sample for the CSI results. LGA scores are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Household Reduced Coping Strategy Index

	Baseline (3 LGAs)	Endline (3 LGAs)
Household Reduced Coping Strategy Index	Total	Total
Less preferred foods	4.8	4.98
Borrow food	5.5	1.48
Limit portion size	3	0.37
Restrict consumption	6.3	0.48
Reduce meals	3.2	0.32
Calculated CSI (out of max. of 56 points)	22.8	7.6

d. Household Food Consumption Score

Households indicated the number of consumed food groups over the past 24 hours. Starchy

foods with cereal and tubers, as well as legumes, sugar, oils and fish were the mainly consumed foods. The consumption of animal proteins improved significantly compared to baseline. An overview is presented in the Figure 4 below. The most impressive improvements came with vegetables, fruit, and the protein categories of meat, fish, and eggs all with drastic improvements. Overall the results are showing an increase in the general consumption of a more varied diet on a daily basis and a large increase in the more nutritious foods from baseline to endline study. 98% of all households have lower scores than the baseline average reduced coping strategy score. 94.3% of all households reported an 'acceptable diet' level.

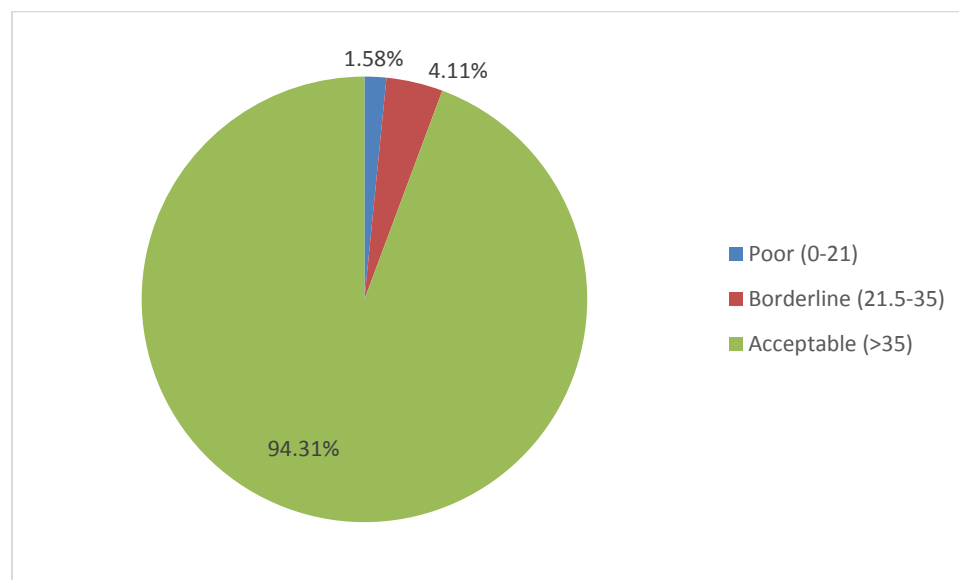
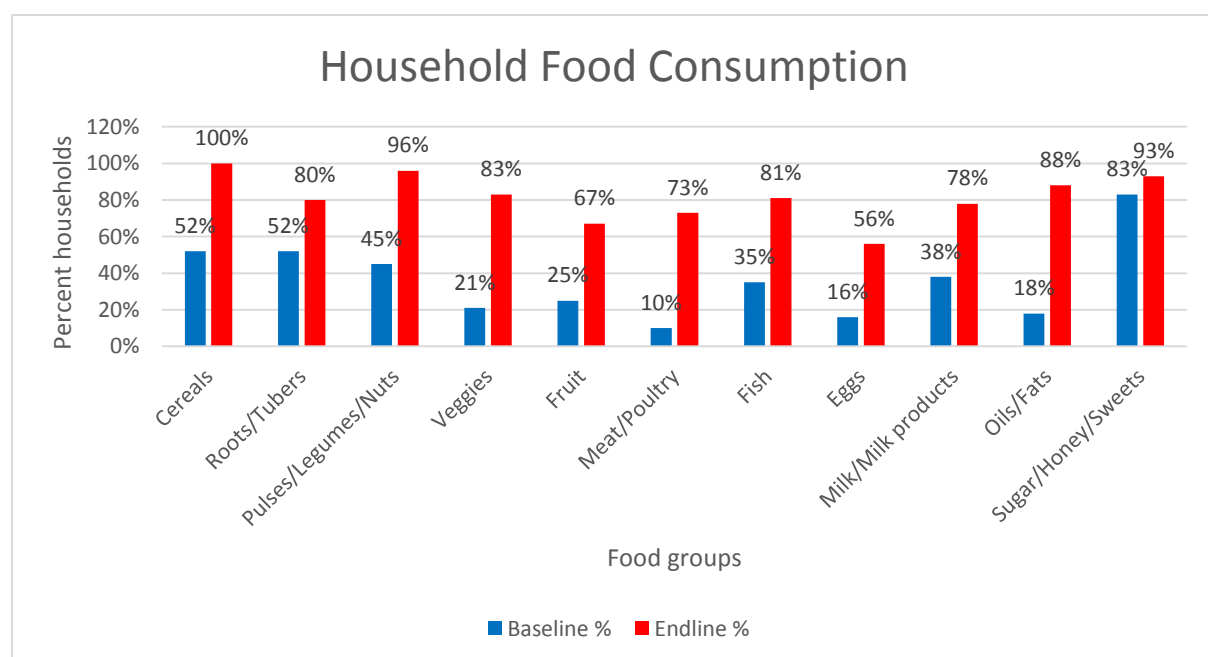


Figure 4 - Food Consumption Thresholds (Household)

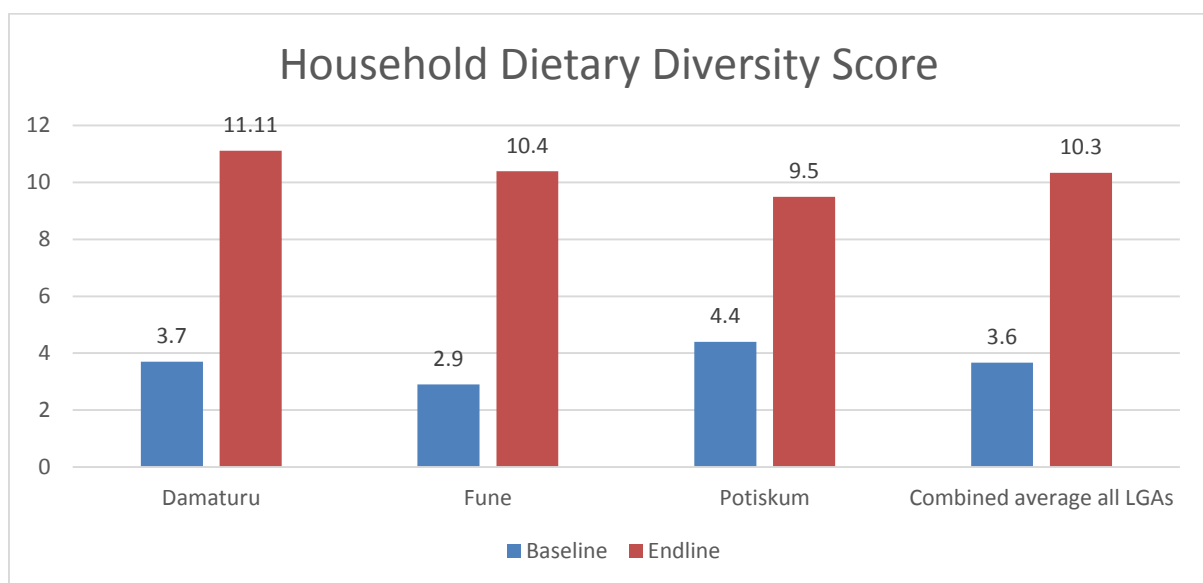
Figure 5 - Household Food Consumption Score



e. Household Dietary Diversity Score

Households were asked about the consumption of food groups by households. Calculating the household dietary diversity score based on the FANTA tool (2006), the data indicates that households have consumed more food groups over the last 24 hrs before the endline survey than they did during the last 24 hrs before the baseline study. With combined average scores of 3.6 at baseline and 10.6 at endline for all 3 LGAs the results indicate a significant increase in the household dietary diversity score. These contrasts were as a result of the food assistance and cash assistance coupled with the nutrition awareness training and monthly sensitization that allowed beneficiaries to have a variety of nutritional foods at their disposal. 98% of all households reported a higher household dietary diversity compared to the baseline average score aggregated over all 3 LGAs.

Figure 6 - Household Dietary Diversity Score



4. FOOD SOURCING

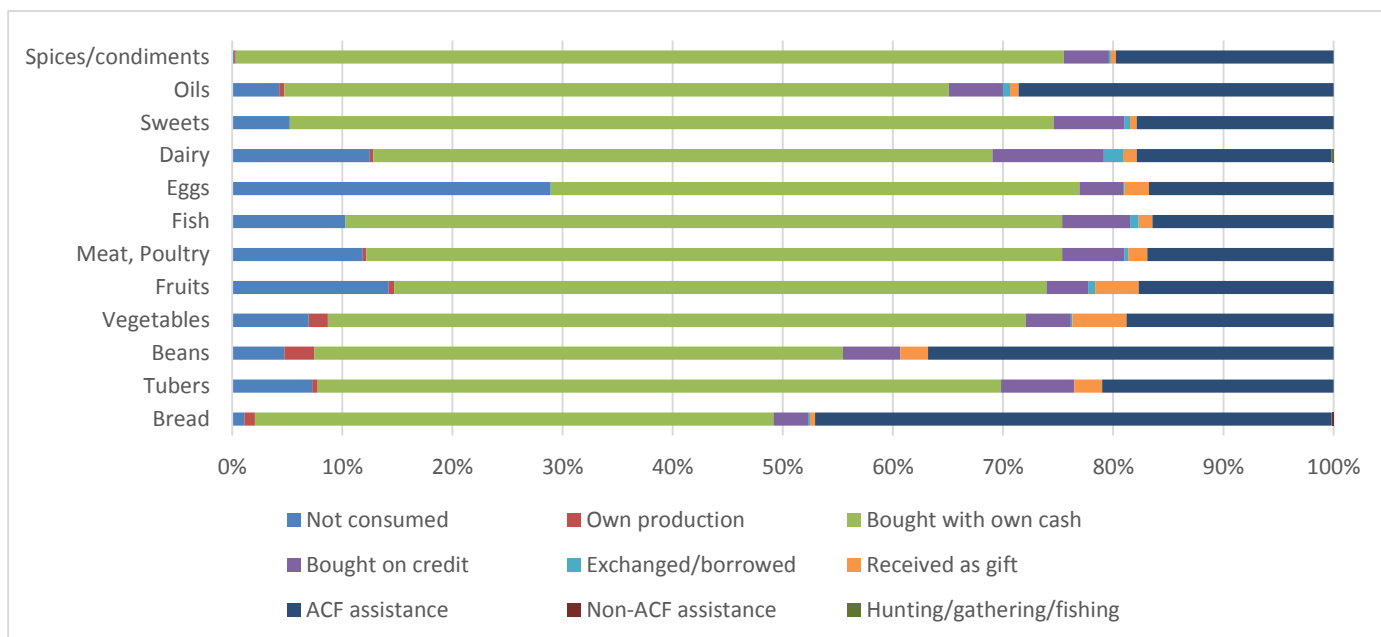


Figure 7 - Food Sourcing (By 7 day recall period)

Endline data shows that the largest food sourcing practice was through the purchase of the commodities with cash with others reporting through ACF assistance. Own household production still remains extremely low and therefore households are still extremely dependent on the projects through ACF as well as external market opportunities and access.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Data from the project has shown great improvements in household income profile with many households across the LGAs. It has been observed that there was major shift from dependence on casual labor as a means of household income during the baseline to petty trading and AAH cash grants by the endline which shows some progress but also significant reliance on AAH. This indicates that households have made extensive use of the cash they received to invest in petty trading. Similarly, vast improvement have been recorded in household food consumption scores and household dietary diversity looking at the data of the baseline versus the endline results. Particular improvements were noted in the most nutritious food groups. Additionally food sourcing showed continued reliance on AAH activities but a large portion of respondents stated they used their own money to purchase goods as well over the past 7 day period previous to data collection. Overall, the households have shown a great improvements in all the indicators assessed. This is evident of how the project has met its objectives and improved the food security status of the households.